ORDERS

To be obſerv'd by the Reſpective Miſtreſſes of the

CHARITY-SCHOOLS

FOR

GIRLS.

Lately Erected in and about the Cities of *London* and *Weſtminſter*; Drawn up and Publiſhed at the Requeſt of divers Benefactors and Subſcribers to the ſaid

SCHOOLS.

THE Deſign of theſe *Schools*, is to train up Poor *Children* in the Knowledge of *God*, and the Principles and Practices of the *Chriſtian Religion*, that they may Glorify God, and Anſwer the End of their Coming into the World: And, in Subordination to this, to teach them to Read, to Work, to Write, to Caſt Account, and ſuch other things as may render them more uſeful in their ſeveral Stations in the World.

In order to which, the *Miſtreſs* of each *School* being ſuppoſed to be qualified with true Chriſtian Zeal, Knowledge, and Piety, is to make it Her Buſineſs to purſue ſuch means as are moſt likely to anſwer the great Deſigns for which the *School* was Erected.

And, in the Firſt place, Let Her conſtantly attend Her proper Buſineſs in the *School*, during the Hours appointed for Teaching, *viz.* from 7 to 11 in the Morning, and from 1 to 5 in the Evening, in the Summer-time; and from 8 to 11 in the Morning, and from 1 to 4 in Winter; that She may be ready to improve theſe Poor *Children* in good Learning to the utmoſt of Her Power, to prevent the Diſorders which frequently happen for want of the *Miſtreſſes* Preſence and Care.

And ſince *RELIGION* is the chief thing aimed at, and the moſt ſubſtantial Advantage of *Education*, let the *Miſtreſs* chiefly mind and intend this, carefully Inſtructing the *Children* in the Principles thereof, as they are laid down in the *Church-Catechiſm*.

And becauſe the Minds of ſome *Children* are dark, and many times dull and inapprehenſive of the meaning of what they learn, let not the *Miſtreſs* content her ſelf with making her Scholars get the *Catechiſm* by rote, nor with the repeating it now and then for forms ſake, but let due Care be taken that they pronounce it diſtinctly and plainly; and that they be taught the Meaning and Deſign of it, in order to the conſcientious Practiſing of it, explaining it fully to the meaneſt Capacity, by the help of ſome good Expoſition: Let this be done at leaſt twice a Week, that every thing in the *Catechiſm* may be the more perfectly repeated and underſtood.

Let the *Miſtreſs* teach the true Spelling of Words, and Diſtinction of Syllables, with the Points and Stops, which is abſolutely neceſſary to true Reading, and ſerves alſo to make the *Children* more mindful of what they Read.

When any of the *Children* can Read tolerably well in the Bible, let them be asked, after they have done Reading, how any Word in the Chapter is ſpelt, or what they remember? which will quicken their Obſervation, either of the Hiſtory, or of ſome practical Truth therein contained: This they may be won to by Encouragement, either of taking Places, or of ſome ſmall Gift now and then; and thus, by degrees, the whole Hiſtory, Genealogy and Chronology of the Bible, might, in time, be throughly underſtood and remembred by the *Children*, as it hath been practiſed in ſome good *Schools*.

As to their Manners, let the *Miſtreſs* ſeriouſly endeavour (by all means) to impreſs the Principles of the Fear of God, and of Chriſtian Truth, Juſtice, Integrity, Patience, Temperance, and all good Morals in their Hearts and Conſciences; and let her diſcourage, by proper Puniſhments, all appearances of Lying and Deceit, Thieving and Intemperance, Stubbornneſs and Impiety, and to prevent ſuch Enormities, let Her endeavour to inſtill into them the due Reverence and Love of God, the Honour of his Name, Word and Day, Times, Perſons and Places; with a lively Faith and hope in his Bleſſed Son and Spirit: As alſo, a due Honour and Regard to their Parents and Superiours: Let Her tell them often of the Bleſſings of Love, Peace and Friendſhip one among another, and the evil of naughty Words, Quarrelling and Revenge. Let Her Inſtructions aim at making them diligent and content in their Stations in the World, and to avoid all Gaming, idle and fooliſh Paſtimes, eſpecially on the Lord's Day, at which time they ſhould be particularly taught to behave themſelves in a Chriſtian Manner. In ſhort, they ſhould be made ſenſible of all Parts of their Duty, that their Demeanour, in all places, may be Pious, Sober, Juſt, Decent, Modeſt and every way ſuitable to their *Chriſtian Education*.

Let thoſe who can read competently well, learn to Work plain Work, and to Knit: As alſo to Write a plain Legible Hand, with the grounds of Arithmetick, to fit them for Service, or Apprenticeſhip.

Let the *Miſtreſs* give the Girls ſome Exerciſe every Night, either to get a Pſalm, or any part of a practical Chapter in the *Old* or *New Teſtament* by heart, or to Write it down, or any thing elſe they obſerved in their reading the Day before; or elſe a Sum in Arithmetick; by which means they will have ſomething to employ their Minds at their vacant Hours, and will alſo learn how to expreſs themſelves, as well as thoſe who are ſent to Grammar-Schools, by making Exerciſes.

Let the *Miſtreſs* take all opportunities to bring the *Children* to the publick Prayers, and ſtrictly to enjoyn them to behave themſelves with profound Reverence while they are in the Houſe of God. Let Her alſo accompany them to Church twice every Lord's day, and every Holiday; and let them be publickly *Catechized* by the Miniſter when they are fit for it.

Let there be Prayers in the *School* every Day, and the *Children* taught to pray at home, Morning, Noon and Night, and to ſay Grace before and after Meat.

After the *Miſtreſs* has taught them their Prayers, and Graces (to be ſaid as before directed) She is to exact of them every *Friday*, or any one day in the Week, to repeat them over diſtinctly one after another, and at the ſame time to acquaint them with the Majeſty and All-Seeing Eye of God, their own Sinfulneſs and Unworthineſs of being admitted into His Preſence, and the Honour He does them in hearing their Petitions, which therefore ought to make them very Humble and Reverent before God, and ſeriouſly Attentive and Affectionate in the ſenſe of the words they utter.

Let the Names of the *Children* be call'd over every Morning and Afternoon, to know whether they come conſtantly at the School-hours; and if any be miſſing, without ſufficient Cauſe, let Her Name be marked with a [*T*] if Tardy, or an [*A*] if Abſent, in a Monthly Journal, to be laid before the Truſtees every time they meet, in order to the Correction of ſuch as make Default.

The Parents are to take particular care to ſend their Children clean Waſh'd and Comb'd to School, leſt they prove Offenſive by Vermine and noiſome Smells.

The Girls are to wear their Caps and Bands every day, that the Truſtees and Benefactors may know them, and ſee what their Behaviour is abroad.

The Deſign of theſe *Schools* being only for the Benefit of ſuch poor Girls, whoſe Parents are not able to give them any Learning, The *Miſtreſſes* ſhall not take any other Scholars beſides thoſe appointed them, under the penalty of forfeiting their Places.

To prevent any Corruption from creeping into theſe *Schools*, the *Miſtreſſes* are neither to demand, nor receive any Money from the poor *Childrens* Parents at their Enterance, or Breaking-up, or upon any other account, but to content themſelves with the Salarys allowed them.

That the *Children* may be ſpeedily improved, They ſhall not be ſuffered to Break-up above three times a Year, at the three great Feſtivals, and by no means at the time of Bartholomew-Fair, where there are ſo many ill Examples and Opportunities of Corruption.

That theſe Orders may be Punctually Obſerved, It is appointed, that they be ſet up in ſome convenient Place of the School, *and be read over Publickly, at leaſt three times in the Year.*

Soli Immortali Gloria tota D E O.